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Erika Mann
Kilchberg/Zürich

Mr. Roger Senhouse
Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd.
7 John Street
Bloomsbury
London W C 1

My dear Roger, -

how extremely nice it has been to hear of you after all these eternities. Of course, I had known - and much to my delight - that Secker & Warburg had purchased for "The last year". But then, I wasn't even certain how closely you were still connected with that firm, and at any rate I vastly enjoyed your personal letter.

Needless to say I bashed myself immediately with the translation and so I am aware of all the scholarship and toil Richard Graves put into it, - damned be the Tower of Babylon! How easy would it be to answer your "three important qu ries"! Unfortunately, however, I seemed to have managed to write any number of sentences and use any number of German expressions the exact meaning of which is very difficult to convey in another language. Where it not for the theme of the book, that is, had I not written about my father I should be far less pedantic. As it goes, I am afraid I shall have to go over the whole translation with the greatest of care which means that some time would have to pass at any rate before the typed script could be returned to you. More unfortunately still, I am just now in the throngs of a contract which obliges me to do a considerable bit of work preparatory to a "Buddenbrooks"-film. Thus I cannot promise to finish my labours on the traduction of "The last year" before - say - the middle of July. And even then, what I propose to deliver is a revised version containing the exact meaning of what I meant to say and not (at least not in every instance) a translation written in perfect English. As you know, I used to be able to write English fairly well; but by now I have been out of the English speaking orbit for more than five years, and as even this letter will indicate I am not quite up to it any longer. Still: once a verbal

translation, raw as it may be, is in your possession, I think the rest will be easy. All that will remain to be done will be to correct whatever flaws my suggestions are apt to reveal. And what matters most, namely that I should not be misunderstood, will be allright.

Let me tell you once more that I am extremely grateful to both yourself and Richard Graves for the trouble you took. I, too, think that Mr. Graves' English reads very well indeed. Once I have made my corrections, and either you or Mr. Graves has corrected my corrections, I am convinced that we shall have a perfect translation.

How much I should like to come to England and particularly to London very soon! If only I were not so overburdened with work! Should there be any fortunate break I should hop onto the very next Viscount leaving Kloten for London airport.

Please give my kindest regards to Freddy Warburg and Pamela. Fondest wishes and love to yourself from

yours sincerely

